

# USOE HAPPENINGS

## To All District Officials and Building Principals:

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Assessment consumes a significant amount of each student's and teacher's time. Every year, teachers and school principals deal with administering state tests, developing and administering formative subject tests, and determining how to utilize the results of the assessments. For many, the topic is daunting. Others understand the basics but would like to expand the number of ways in which their data is used. Still others would like to know how to improve the quality of the assessments they develop.

This year the Assessment Department of the Utah State Office of Education would like to offer training in developing assessments and using data generated from assessments. This training can be adapted to the needs of your district or school. Schools can determine the length of the in-service, which can vary from two hours to one or two days.

Schools or districts may choose from the following list of topics:

Web Technology: Usage and Safety  
Excel Tips and Tricks  
Data Extraction  
UTIPS Usage and Management  
Open Source Tools (i.e., Open Office, Google Tools, Linux, etc.)  
Testing Vocabulary  
Test Item Development  
Reading the Core Curriculum  
Use of Standardized Test Score Data to Inform Instruction  
Overview of Standardized assessments offered by the state  
Accurately Measuring of Student Learning

Beginning Statistical Use of Data  
Understanding Basic Data and Graph  
Reading:  

- Beginning Use of State Assessments
- Assumptions Behind Using Data

 Understanding Test Quality:  

- Item Validity and Reliability
- Test Validity and Reliability

 Use of COGNOS:  

- District Implementation
- Teacher/ Principal Access and Navigation:

- ◇ Logging In, Searching, Saving, and Exporting to Excel and PDF

- ◇ Creating Reports Using Report Studio
- ◇ Using Dimensional Data Cubes: Accessing and Extracting to Excel and PDF

Reading and Interpreting Data in Relation to the Curriculum  
Basic SQL: Pulling Data from a Data Table  
Displaying and Reporting Test Results  
DDDM (Data-Driven Decision Making)

If you are interested in scheduling a training session, please contact Lucy Roque at 801-538-7810 or [luz.roque@schools.utah.gov](mailto:luz.roque@schools.utah.gov). Please provide a list of the topics you would like covered, the length of workshop you would like, and two possible dates. We hope to hear from you soon.

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/>

## Computer-Based Assessments

A thousand thanks to all of you who have spent hours making the CBT process a success this year! Just over 495,500 tests have been assigned and processed in the CBT system. That's more than 400,000 more than last year. You have been very responsive, and your work is appreciated.

Information outlining preparation and training for 2009's computer-based testing will be shared with each district and charter school beginning in August. We look forward to working with you as we begin another school year.

UTAH STATE  
OFFICE OF



EDUCATION

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"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."  
—Sydney J. Harris

## Workshops

We are in the process of recruiting teachers for an Alignment Work Study Workshop!

The USOE will be conducting an alignment work study on our math, science and English Language Arts (ELA) cores and some formative assessments. We would appreciate your participation. Your expertise is essential for this study; therefore, we have chosen the week of **July 28-31<sup>st</sup>** to accomplish this. We will be meeting for four days. Please contact Lucy Roque at [luz.roque@schools.ut.gov](mailto:luz.roque@schools.ut.gov) or 801-538-7810 at your earliest convenience. If you know of other teachers who would be interested in participating, please let us know. Thank you.

August 6: New AD Meeting — Jordan School District Auxiliary Bldg. 9361 S. 300 E., Sandy

August 7: AD Meeting — Jordan School District Auxiliary Bldg.

### Upcoming Meetings

## NAEP 2009

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for 2009 is underway! With approximately 275 schools selected in 36 districts as well as 19 charter schools, NAEP 2009 will report on a large sample of Utah students. Among the fourth and eighth grades selected from the given schools, students will participate in assessments in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science for the state NAEP portion of the assessment. In addition to the state NAEP assessment, a national assessment will also be conducted in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, civics, geography, and U.S. history. The assessment window will begin on January 26 and end on March 6, 2009. Assessment dates for each school have already been selected, and principals and districts have been notified.

Currently, NAEP is recruiting field staff members throughout Utah to assist with the assessment cycle beginning in January. If you know of someone who will be available from January through March of next year, please have that person contact the USOE NAEP State Coordinator, Tim Eccleston, at [tim.eccleston@schools.utah.gov](mailto:tim.eccleston@schools.utah.gov) or 801-538-7814.